



Discover Duxbury

Myles Standish Monument An historic treasure.....

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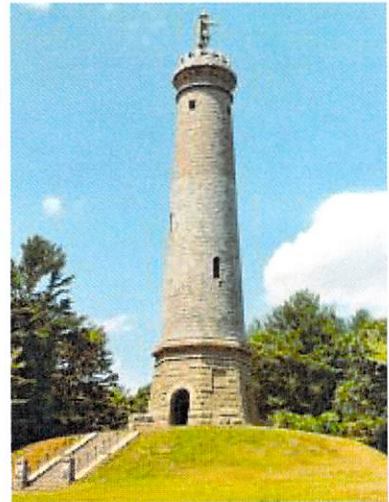
Located off of Crescent Street, the Myles Standish Monument State Reservation is home to a 130-foot tall edifice dedicated to the memory of Captain Myles Standish, the Plymouth

Colony's military leader.

While his historical claim to fame is sailing over on the Mayflower, Standish was also one of the founders and settlers of the town of Duxbury. He died in Duxbury on October 3, 1656 at the age of 72, and is buried in the town's Myles Standish Burying Ground – deemed the oldest maintained cemetery in the nation by the American Cemetery Association.

The monument – a 116-foot granite shaft topped by a 14-foot statue of Captain Standish – sits on Captain's Hill. At 200-feet above sea level, it's the highest point in Duxbury.

Standish's statue can be seen pointing towards England. The sword he was holding was knocked out by a lightening storm.



The Myles Standish Monument, located off of Crescent Street, is open to the public on the weekend.

Its cornerstone was laid on October 7, 1872, and through the efforts of the Standish Monument Association, the structure was completed on July 15, 1899. It was transferred to the care of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on August 6, 1920 and was refurbished in 1988.

Maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation, the monument is only open on Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m-4 p.m. There is no charge to view and/or enter the monument.

There is a gate at the bottom of the hill off of Crescent Street that marks the entrance to the park. When the monument is open you may make a short drive up the asphalt road and park in the small, paved lot directly across from the monument. There is 20-25 marked spaces to park vehicles or motorcycles.

A short flight of stairs with steel railings on each side guide the way up to the monument's door. Above the door you'll notice seven distinct blocks of granite formed in a half circle above the door with the following engravings M.E., CONN., V.T., U.S., MASS., R.I. and N.H. as a tribute to the New England states. The names of the 14 Massachusetts counties are etched into the granite at various points.



The view from the top of the Myles Standish Monument. *Photos by Aaron Carr*
the top of the staircase for safety.

Once inside you'll notice a giant spiral staircase enclosed by metal fencing all the way up. Each stair is crafted from metal.

Those who are acrophobic beware – it's a 125-step journey (nearly ten stories high) to reach the monument's summit. The stairs are winding and narrow on one side, and there is a railing that patrons may (and encouraged to) hold on to while ascending or descending.

NOTE: People climbing up have the right of way. There are a few windows carved into the side of the monument that you'll be able to see through as you loop around during your ascent. Look through each one to help track your progress.

If you managed to venture all the way to the top, a small viewing area awaits. A ring of thin, metal pillars surrounds

There are four separate windows cut into the granite that showcase the panoramic view of Duxbury Beach, Plymouth Harbor and the Blue Hills along with several neighboring church spires and 19th-century lighthouses.

The climb might be strenuous but the view from the top is breathtaking (pun intended).

I highly recommend peaking through each window. You might discover a potential adventure in that picture-esque view.

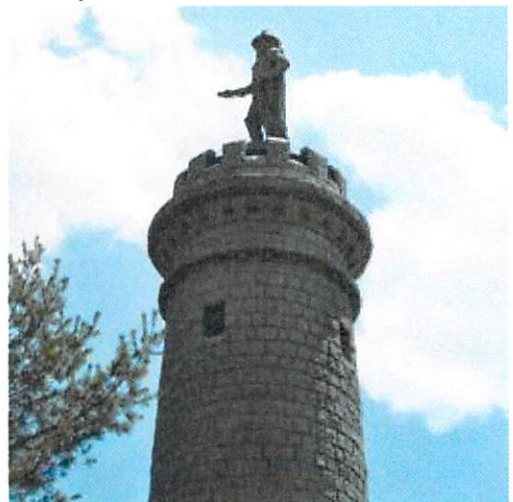
For fun, stick your head out one of the windows and examine the vehicles sitting in the parking lot. That will give you a much better sense of just how far up in the air you've ventured.

When you've had your fill of tree gazing, you'll be relieved to know that the descent is much easier than the ascent.

Hopefully you've packed some water. Take a celebratory swig.

Now feel free to lie on the grass surrounding the base of monument or explore a neighboring walking trail amongst the pines.

Along your travels in and around the Myles Standish Monument, remember to take a deep breath and soak up the supplement of nature.



The statue of Myles Standish is 14-feet tall.